



Office of ADA Coordination
Commission on Disability Issues
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May 21, 2009

Dear Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss and
Members, Board of County Commissioners

On May 21, the Transportation/Access Committee (TAC) of the Commission on Disability Issues (CODI) met to discuss the proposed Para-Transit RFP. CODI was unable to formulate an official opinion since the next general meeting of CODI will be after the ten day comment period; however the comments below reflect the opinion of the entire Transportation/Access Committee.

- Para-Transit service must remain 24/7 County-wide without regard to the fixed route corridor.
- No circuitous route beyond three miles in any direction other than the destination direction shall be accepted.
- Reservation hours shall remain from 8:00 am. to 5 pm.
- All on-board technology will be in place when service begins under this new contract.
- Same day emergency trips authorized by the County for a medically related appointment or for an individual with an accessible van which breaks down while they are away from home should be included in the RFP. These emergency situations require 24/7 coverage.
- One key term that needs to be explicitly defined is "negotiated" pick up time. The negotiated pick up time should be agreed upon before the reservation call ends and should not be allowed to be changed, since people with disabilities often rely on others in order to help them prepare to keep their appointments.
- High top vans must have a step with adequate hand grips to assist passengers embarking and disembarking. Sedans must also have adequate hand grips.
- All ambulatory passengers should face forwards when being transported.
- Documentation in written form must be provided by bus operations to support the decrease in miles per hour from 12 miles per hour to 8 miles per hour; since this rate of travel has a direct correlation to the maximum length spent by riders aboard the system.
- The website <https://ridesmiamidade.gov> should have a searchable link to a rider's monthly trip history and a link to file a complaint.

The members of the Commission on Disability Issues serve in an advisory capacity to the Miami-Dade County Commissioners but are also seen by many in the community as advocates for people with disabilities. Because of the latter, the Transportation / Access committee of the Commission on Disability Issues feels that they cannot support any part of an RFP that would reduce service to people with disabilities.

Sincerely,

Damian P. Gregory, Chair
CODI

c.
Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
George M. Burgess, County Manager
Harpal Kapoor, Director, Transit Department
Kathy Lewis, Chief, Office of Civil Rights and Labor Relations
Martha Cox, Acting Manager, Para-Transit Operations

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